

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q71952

Kenichiro NAKAJIMA

Appln. No.: 10/524,546

Group Art Unit: 4132

Confirmation No.: 1419

Examiner: BENNETT, Tyler N.

Filed: November 1, 2005

For: FILLED SKUTTERUDITE-BASED ALLOY, PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF
AND THERMOELECTRIC CONVERSION DEVICE FABRICATED USING THE
ALLOY

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98
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merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents (Office Action in Chinese Patent Application No. 038231743 mailed April 11, 2008), together with an English-language version of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations: The listed U.S. Patent No. 7,002,071 corresponds to CN 1300446 and constitutes a further statement of relevance for CN 1300446.

JP-A-2002-026400 cited in the Chinese Office Action was previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 14, 2005 and November 1, 2005 (with English language abstract and machine translation). Accordingly, a copy of JP-A-2002-026400 is not being submitted herewith. The enclosed Chinese Office Action with its translation constitutes a further concise statement of relevance for this document. In addition, the Chinese Office Action cites U.S. Patent 6,069,312, which was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 14, 2005.

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The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

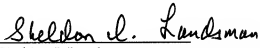
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 10, 2008


Sheldon I. Landsman
Registration No. 25,430

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

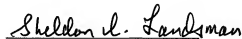
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